SOUNDTRANSIT

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (SEPA)

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of Proposal: Seattle-to-Tacoma Sounder Commuter Rail Easements and Improvements (Easements 3 and 4)

Sound Transit proposes to purchase easements from BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) for the operation of two additional commuter rail trains in the Seattle-to-Tacoma rail corridor on existing BNSF right-of-way. As part of Sound Transit's proposed easement agreement with BNSF, track improvements are proposed within a section of the rail right-of-way through the cities of Tukwila, Renton, Kent, and Auburn, Washington. Track improvements would be constructed by BNSF and would include (1) adding new track; (2) track rehabilitation; (3) new high speed turnouts; (4) updates to existing signals, and construction of new signal facilities including new signals or signal bungalows; and (5) widening two crossings by constructing two new bridges adjacent to existing bridges, one over Longacres Way in Tukwila and one over Mill Creek in Kent.

Proponent: Sound Transit (Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority)

Location of the Proposal: Track improvements associated with these easements would occur within Tukwila, Kent, and Auburn, primarily within the BNSF rail right-of-way. The site is currently used as the BNSF mainline rail corridor with freight, intercity passenger trains (Amtrak), and Sounder commuter train use.

Lead Agency: Sound Transit

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that the proposal does not have a probable significant adverse environmental impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after a review of the completed SEPA environmental checklist and other information on file with the agency. This information is available to the public on request. The SEPA Environmental Checklist can be reviewed on the Sound Transit website. (http://www.soundtransit.org/About-Sound-Transit/Environment-and-sustainability/Environmental-documents.xml).

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2) and Sound Transit's SEPA rules (Resolution R7-1). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date of issue below. Comments must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on May 1, 2012. Comments should be submitted to: Lauren Swift, Environmental Planner, Sound Transit, 401 South Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104. Email comments can be sent to lauren.swift@soundtransit.org . Both written and email comments should include an addressee and return address. The SEPA responsible official listed below will reconsider the DNS based on timely comments and may retain, modify, or, if significant adverse impacts are likely, withdraw the DNS. If the DNS is retained, it will be final after the expiration of the comment deadline.

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Responsible Official:	Perry Weinberg
Position/Title:	Environmental Affairs and Sustainability Director, Sound Transit
Telephone:	(206) 689-4931
Address:	Planning, Environment, and Project Development Department Union Station, 401 South Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104-2826

You may appeal this determination to Joni Earl, Chief Executive Officer, Sound Transit, Union Station, 401 South Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104-2826 no later than May 8, 2012 by submitting a written statement requesting an appeal, setting forth the information required by Sound Transit's SEPA rules (Resolution No. R7-1), and paying the required fee. You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Contact the responsible official to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

Auxiliary aids and services and communication materials in accessible format can be arranged with sufficient notice by calling (206) 398-5000, or (206) 398-5086 for TDD users.

Date of Issue: April 17, 2012

Signature: James Stark for Perry Weinberg